

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 01803 290248Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 MMO-01 DLOS-09 HA-05 EB-08 AID-05
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R 281726Z JUN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2332
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDEV PORG CU
SUBJ: CUBANS RESPOND TO ATTACKS ON THEIR NON-ALIGNED STATUS

1. SUMMARY: POLITBURO MEMBER GUILLERMO GARCIA, SPEAKING AT YUGOSLAV ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS, JUNE 23, STRONGLY COUNTERS QUESTIONING BY US AND OTHERS OF CUBA'S NON-ALIGNED STATUS. RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO SHOW BALANCE IN CUBA'S INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR, GARCIA FOLLOWS RECENT CUBAN PRACTICE IN EQUATING TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT WITH AN ANTI-WESTERN ("ANTI-IMPERIALIST") POSTURE. GARCIA'S SUPRISINGLY AGGRESSIVE LINE SEEMS CLEARLY AIMED AT YUGOSLAVIA AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) MODERATES WHO HAVE CRITICIZED ATTEMPTS BY "OLD AND NEW COLONIALISTS TO EXPAND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE IN AFRICA" (TO PARAPHRASE TITO'S RECENT XI CONGRESS SPEECH). END SUMMARY.

2. GARCIA PLACES CUBA CLEARLY IN OPPOSITION TO "IMPERIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, COLONIALISM, RACISM, ZIONISM, AND APARTHEID" AND LABELS THOSE WHO ACCUSE CUBA OF DIVIDING NAM "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE." HE SAYS THAT THOSE COUNTRIES

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PAGE 02 HAVANA 01803 290248Z

WHICH BELIEVE THAT NAM MEETINGS SHOULD ACCOMMODATE ALL POLITICAL TENDENCIES ARRIVE AT IDENTICAL POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS AS IMPERIALISTS.

3. GARCIA TAKES STRONG LINE THAT DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN FREEZING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ARGUES THAT SLOGAN OF "AFRICA FOR AFRICANS" DOES NOT MEAN THAT CONTINENT SHOULD

BE LEFT UNDER HEEL OF "IMPERIALIST MONOPOLIES".

4. THE CUBAN POLITBURO MEMBER DISMISSES CHARGE THAT CUBA IS ECONOMICALLY BEHOLDEN TO SOVIETS, AND SAYS THAT HAVANA WILL PAY BACK SOVIET HELP THROUGH CUBAN ECONOMIC (I.E., NON-MILITARY) EFFORTS.

5. COMMENT: GARCIA'S STRONG DEFENSE OF CUBAN BEHAVIOR AND HIS RIGID SECTARIAN LINE AMOUNT TO ATTACHON MORE EVENHANDED POSTURE OF YUGOSLAVS AND OTHER NAM MODERATES. WHILE CERTAINLY A MANIFESTATION OF CURRENT CUBAN INFLEXIBILITY ON AFRICA, GARCIA'S SPEECH MAY EQUALLY BE EXPLAINED BY HAVANA'S CALCULATION THAT NAM MODERATES, PARTICULARLY YUGOSLAVIA, CAN BE COWED BY THEIR DESIRE NOT TO APPEAR BEHOLDEN TO US.

6. FYI ONE OTHER INTERESTING FEATURE OF GARCIA'S SPEECH IS HIS SPECIFIC NUMBERING OF ARGENTINA AMONG "PRO-IMPERIALIST TYRANNIES" OF LATIN AMERICA. THIS IS CURIOUS SINCE CUBA MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BUENOS AIRES, IS SEEKING TO REVIVE TRADE, AND SHARES MEMBERSHIP WITH ARGENTINA IN NAM. AGAIN, THIS MAY REFLECT ACUTE SECTARIANISM OF CURRENT CUBAN POLICY. END FYI
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